



LITERACY B.C. NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1993

VOLUME 3 NUMBER 5



*Literacy B.C.
would like to wish you all
a very Merry Christmas
and hope that the
New Year brings
peace, joy and happiness.*



This issue includes a copy of the Literacy B.C. 1992-93 Annual Report. Once again, we are proud of the growth and leadership our

organization has developed. It would not have been possible without the generous support of donors, sponsors and members. A very special thank you to everyone for your support, encouragement and commitment.



NEWS FROM LITERACY B.C.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the Executive Officers for 1993 - 94.

PAST-PRESIDENT LEE WEINSTEIN

Since Literacy B.C. began in 1990, Lee has been the President. He has worked long and hard to have Literacy B.C. become a strong organization. He has been appointed to the Executive Committee for one year. Lee is currently on leave from Invergarry Learning Centre and is working on a Family Literacy project at a Vancouver School.

PRESIDENT AUDREY THOMAS

Audrey is well known to many people for her outstanding work as a literacy consultant and researcher. She was a founding member of Literacy B.C. and has been the Vice President for the past 2 years.

VICE PRESIDENT BOB GADSBY

Bob is the ABE Co-ordinator/
Instructor at East Kootenay College

in Invermere B.C. He has been on the Literacy B.C. Board for 2 years and served as the Treasurer. Bob is also on the Board of the Adult Basic Education Association of BC (ABEABC).

SECRETARY VICKI BRAGAN

Vicki lives and works in the Queen Charlotte Islands. As a teacher she has worked for the Victim Assistance Program and is currently involved in setting up a literacy program. Vicki has been on the Literacy B.C. Board for 2 years and was the Secretary last year.

TREASURER JIM LIPPERT

Jim was elected to the Literacy B.C. Board 1 year ago. He is currently the Executive Director of SKILLPLAN and Director of the BC Construction Industry Health and Safety Council.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES HONG NGO

Hong has been on the Literacy B.C. Board for 2 years. Hong came to Canada in 1979 and worked as a seamstress. In 1985 she went back to school and now works as a teaching assistant at Invergarry Learning Centre.

ERNA BARWICH

Erna has been a student at Fraser Valley College in Chilliwack and in June passed her GED exams. Erna has been on the Board for 2 years and is very active on the Learners Caucus. She is also very involved with literacy projects with Fraser Valley East Literacy Association.

The Board of Directors will meet three times this year. Between meetings, the many Committees will meet using Conference calls. This year, 1993-94, the Board will work on developing policies and plans to meet the following goals and objectives:

TO SUPPORT LITERACY PRACTITIONERS AND PROGRAMS IN B.C. BY:

- providing information, support and professional development

workshops for literacy practitioners, programs and groups

- planning and co-ordinating workshops related to programs using volunteer tutors
- developing a network for trainers of volunteer tutors

- planning and co-ordinating workshops on community development in the Northern regions.
- planning and co-ordinating a 1994 Summer Institute for Literacy Practitioners.

(News from Literacy B.C.
continued on page 3)

*(News From
Literacy B.C. continued)*

**TO BUILD COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS FOR LITERACY
BY:**

- assisting with the evaluation of cost shared projects
- keeping government informed about literacy issues
- developing a model for Regional Development
- promoting and developing 2 Regional Networks

- providing speakers, display and resources to business, labour, ministries and provincial organizations

- providing literacy programs with media and public relations material

- publishing a bi-monthly Newsletter.

**TO SUPPORT ADULT LEARNERS
IN B.C. BY:**

- encouraging and supporting the development of a Provincial Learners Network

- having at least 6 learners on the Literacy B.C. Board each year

- providing training as needed

- planning for a 1995 Provincial Learners Conference.

**TO STRENGTHEN LITERACY B.C.
AS THE PROVINCIAL NETWORK
BY:**

- maintaining at least 600 members
- developing a long range fund raising plan
- conducting program and staff evaluation
- developing a three year strategic plan.

WE ARE MOVING . . . DECEMBER 9TH

OUR NEW ADDRESS IS:

**#1122 - 510 WEST HASTINGS STREET
VANCOUVER, BC V6B 1L8**

PHONE: 687-5077

FAX: 687-5076

COST SHARED PROJECTS 1994-1995

Patty Bossort will be the liaison person again this year for Cost Shared Projects. An application form and guidelines will be distributed this month. If you plan to apply for a Cost

Shared Project, Patty would like to talk to you. Please call her at 876-3780 for an application form and to discuss your proposal.

**DEADLINE FOR 1994 - 95
COST SHARED PROJECTS IS
FEBRUARY 25, 1994.
APPLICATIONS MUST NOT BE
FAXED.**

NEW RESOURCES

OUR WORDS II, the second book of learners' short stories from Project Literacy Kelowna, is now available. This book is the result of many hours of hard work by learners and tutors.

Publication was made possible through a grant from the Hamber Foundation and the fundraising efforts of the Friends of Project Literacy Kelowna Society.

OUR WORDS II is available for \$6.50 plus postage and handling from:

Project Literacy Kelowna
#14 - 1304 Ellis Street
Kelowna, B.C.
V1Y 1Z8

1994 BEGINNINGS: LITERACY WALL CALENDAR

This year, as in 1992, Wordstream Publishers of Victoria READ produced a fine calendar. Each month is represented by a different literacy program on Lower Vancouver Island. Each story or poem about the author's experience is accompanied by a beautiful four by six inch photograph of that person or his environment. The students

who wrote in the calendar all struggled in school, but are now thinking positively about their ability.

Calendars are \$5.00 each and proceeds will support future Learners' Publishing Projects. Large black and white photos and space to write accompany each month!

To order your 1994 Literacy Wall Calendar phone, fax or write:

WORDSTREAM LEARNERS'
PUBLISHING GROUP
VICTORIA READ SOCIETY
720 LINDEN AVENUE, VICTORIA,
B.C.
PHONE: (604) 388-7225
OR FAX: (604) 386-8330

VOLUNTEERISM

Six new publications on volunteerism are now available from the Voluntary Action Directorate in Ottawa. Included are:

- Volunteers in British Columbia
- Promoting Volunteerism
- Shared Office Facilities: A Cooperative Model for Small Groups
- Survey of Volunteer Activity
- Economic Dimensions of Volunteer Work in Canada
- Handbooks for Voluntary Organizations (Vols 1 - 8)

To order, or for a complete list of their publications, contact:

Voluntary Action Directorate
Department of Canadian Heritage
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1K5
Telephone: (819) 994-2256

THE 1993 PROVINCIAL LEARNERS CONFERENCE REPORT
is now available.

To order your copy please contact the
Literacy B.C. office at
687-5077 or FAX 687-5076



LITERACY B.C. ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE



Thomas Quigley receiving his Canada Post Award from Pete Pietramala, IBM and Doug McClelland, Canada Post.



Annual Meeting Lunch.

Over 40 people involved in tutor training in B.C. met on Friday, October 22 to discuss characteristics of a volunteer tutor training program, the development of a network of tutor trainers and a 1993 - 94 strategic plan for training.

The following recommendations were the highlights of the day's discussions:

- that Literacy B.C. develop a tutor trainer information page in existing Newsletters
- that the possibility of computer bulletin board link-ups be researched
- that Literacy B.C. compile available material on volunteer tutor training

- that Literacy B.C. develop a core curriculum for tutor training that would be tested and evaluated in the field

Literacy B.C.'s Conference and Annual General Meeting was held at the Chateau Granville in Vancouver on October 23, 1993. Over 100 people came from across the province to take part in the training workshops and attend the Annual General Meeting. Saturday's workshops were:

PRACTITIONER TRAINING, a hands-on, experiential workshop; a PROVINCIAL LEARNERS FORUM, a follow-up to the June Provincial Learners Conference; ETHNOGRAPHIC EVALUATION IN LITERACY, a discussion of evaluation of literacy programs in a non-traditional format; SKILLPLAN, a unique workforce initiative;

LITERACY TASK ANALYSIS, a technique that identifies the specific literacy components of jobs; RESEARCH FOR ACTION, a report on the student action research project at Invergarry Learning Centre; BOOK REVIEWS MADE EASY, sharing book review formats; TIPS ON PROPOSAL WRITING, writing effective grant proposals; a PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT UPDATE on literacy/ABE issues in the province; and FUND-RAISING IN THE 90'S.

THANK YOU to all of the facilitators for your contributions to the success of the Conference.

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LITERACY B.C. ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE CONTINUED

The Literacy BC Annual General Meeting was held during lunch. It was a chance to celebrate the past year's success. The Board of Directors for 1993-94 were introduced and a special thank you given to the following Directors who retired:

Michael Booker
Carmela Canino
Bill Mundie
Rose Pierre
Ken Reich
Grant Richards
Fern Senior

A report of the Conference and Annual General Meeting and a list of participants are available from the Literacy B.C. office.

A very special thank you to our Conference sponsors for their continued generous support.

MAIL  POSTE
Canada Post Corporation / Société canadienne des postes

 **Pacific Press Limited**
The Province *The Vancouver Sun*

SUPERIOR PROPANE LEARNER AWARD

The Selection Committee had a very hard time deciding on one person for this Award. In fact, everyone who applied deserved to win.

We are pleased to announce that the winners are **BRENDA LEE GILES AND CAROL BOSSIO**.

Brenda Lee Giles is a student at Vancouver Community College. She returned to school in 1992 and has been an excellent student. Brenda is a single parent, but still found time to be on several student committees and is an inspiration to her fellow students. Brenda's goal is to become a Medical Office Assistant.

Carol Bossio first attended the tutoring program at the Write Place in Parksville. She is now enrolled in the ABE Basic Skills Program at Malaspina College. Carol is a single mother with two teenage children who takes time to support other students and has been a guest speaker at Ministry Social Services Conferences. Her goal is to become a social worker.



Brenda Giles and Carol Bossio at the Literacy B.C. Annual Meeting.

WORKSHOPS

The Association of Fund Raising Professionals of B.C. is providing a course on the Principles and Techniques of Fund Raising from March 14 to 18, 1994. The 5-day course combines interactive participation exercises, group discussions and information from experienced fund raising professionals. A 500 page guide provides details on methods, techniques, organizing, managing and reporting.

Registration is limited to 30 people, and will not be accepted after March 7, 1994. For more information contact:

Catherine Daminato
Director of Development
BCIT
3700 Willingdon Avenue
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 3H2
Telephone: 432-8792

SUMMER LITERACY INSTITUTE 1994

Literacy B.C. and the Open Learning Agency are co-sponsoring the Summer Institute 1994. Literacy practitioners will have the opportunity to attend full-time courses in the mornings and special interest workshops in the afternoons. Simon Fraser University, on Burnaby Mountain, will be the location for the Summer Institute. It will be held

between July 4 and 15, 1994. Needs assessments for the Institute will be mailed out in early December and brochures will be ready by late February. Watch for both of these! For more information contact:

Mary Thompson Boyd
Phone: 687-5077
Fax: 687-5076

VOLUNTEER SKILLS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS FOR NORTHERN B.C. COMMUNITIES

Literacy B.C. is hosting a series of three workshops in Northern B.C. communities in 1993-94. These events have grown out of initiatives from "The Next Step: A Northern Conference on Literacy" that was held in Houston in March, 1992. The workshops will provide literacy groups and community organizations and agencies in the North the opportunity to make new connections in their region; develop ideas for networking; and create plans for developing and sustaining organizations.

Workshops have been held in Smithers from November 5 to 6 and in Prince George from November 19 to 20. The third workshop will be held in either Fort St. John or Dawson Creek in the Spring of 1994.

For more information contact the Literacy B.C. office or:

Sarah Peake
Pacific Challenge
RR#1 Vanderhoof, B.C. VOJ 3A0
Phone: 567-9739; Fax: 567-9746

COOKING: A NEW TRAINING PROGRAM

UFCW Local 2000 will be offering a new, unique and dynamic literacy cooking program directed towards an apprenticeship in cooking. United Food and Commercial Workers Union has been involved in many trades training programs in the past. Their new program has been devised to take people out of the community who have reading and writing levels from Grades 4-10 and direct them to a cooking course. The cooking segment will instill confidence by showing success in upgrading reading and writing skills and applying these skills to cooking. The 8-month course can be credited towards an Apprenticeship in Cooking. The program is for persons on Unemployment Insurance as well as Social Assistance. The first 4 months of the program are devoted to literacy upgrading and the second 4 months are devoted to the cooking curriculum. The program begins in January, 1994.

For more information contact:

Kelly Sinclair
UFCW Local 2000
379 - 12th Street, New
Westminster, B.C. V3M 4H5
Telephone: 240-3199 (Cellular)



MOVEMENT FOR CANADIAN LITERACY NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 5 - 7, 1993

At this meeting, MCL voted to accept a new Constitution and Bylaws. The reason for these changes is to provide a way for MCL to build a strong national voice for literacy and to be more responsive to provincial issues and concerns.

The new structure includes 5 Administrative Directors, who will

be responsible for the operations of MCL. In addition, there will be two representative Directors for each provincial and territorial coalition, one of whom must be a learner. There will also be two Directors at Large.

Literacy BC Board of Directors will be deciding how to choose the two BC representatives at its next meeting in February 1994.

For more information about these changes, contact:

MCL
458 McLaren Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 5K6
Phone: 613-563-2464
Fax: 613-563-2504

LITERACY ISSUES SURVEY RESULTS

In June 1994, MCL did a survey asking people what they thought were the main issues for literacy in our country.

A total of 5200 surveys were mailed and 661 were completed (14%). The survey results will be used as the basis for MCL's advocacy work with the federal government. These issues will be presented to both government policy makers and politicians.

The survey results, in order of priority, are:

1. MCL should work to have the National Literacy Secretariat's annual budget maintained at least \$19.2 million/year (its 1993-94 level), and for further announced cuts to be cancelled
- MCL should work to have at least 15% of EIC training dollars go into literacy
2. MCL should urge the Correctional Service of Canada to maintain and expand current

levels of basic literacy programming in federal prisons

- MCL should push to have Indian and Northern Affairs Canada put resources into aboriginal-controlled literacy programming on reserves, following the Aboriginal Literacy Action Plan
- 3. MCL should push all the major parties to commit to cutting illiteracy rates in half
- MCL should push all the major parties to commit to the target of quadrupling employer-sponsored training
- MCL should seek to make the Literacy Corps funding (currently \$1 million/year) available for programming not only for youth but for learners of any age, and to have that funding increased
- MCL should join with other social movements, organizations and coalitions that address broad

social issues, to ensure the recognition of the connections of literacy to poverty, social assistance provision, full employment policies, child care and other issues

- MCL should work with other organizations involved in public education, particularly teachers' federations and school board associations, to address the connections between adult and child literacy
- 4. MCL should ask the major parties to commit to mechanisms to meet the Prosperity Initiative target to quadrupling employer-based training
- MCL should request that each of the major federal parties commit themselves to a "Forum for Learning" or some cross-Canada co-ordinating body for education and training, to promote a learning culture and to promote special initiatives to eradicate illiteracy

Frontier College/Read Canada Employment Opportunity

Frontier College needs a person to coordinate the B.C. READ Canada program. This is a children's reading program designed to "hook kids on books." The main responsibilities for this position will be:

- facilitating the development of READING CIRCLES
- identifying celebrity readers
- involving local public events to use the reading tents

- working with a local advisory committee and helping to raise funds

Skills required include:

- a knowledge of children's literacy and early childhood education
- experience in the volunteer sector
- administrative and bookkeeping experience

- excellent verbal and written communication

Salary: 20 hours per week at \$12 per hour. Send resume by December 31, 1993 to:

Sandra Huehn
Frontier College, 35 Jackes Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1E2

DICK NOLAN MOVES ON

In 1988 the Prime Minister announced that the Federal government was going to establish a literacy program, and Dick Nolan was assigned to the task. He went about this task with a willingness to take risks, to support innovation and to consider any idea that was put forward.

Over the last ten years Dick established the Human Rights Directorate, the Disabled Persons

Secretariat and finally the Literacy Secretariat. After 5 years as Director General of the Secretariat, Dick is moving on. Dick has made a remarkable impact on literacy in Canada. Community groups, provincial and territorial governments, and business and labour leaders have become interested in literacy because of Dick Nolan's and the Literacy Secretariat's determination that they do so.

Many of us in B.C. have had the pleasure and privilege of working with Dick and wish him well as the new Registrar of Citizenship Registration. This Department determines the process by which immigrants to Canada become citizens. (Adapted from ABC CANADA Newsletter).

WHO WE ARE

Literacy B.C., founded in March 1990, is a coalition of people and groups concerned with promoting literacy in B.C.

Our mission is to promote literacy, to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by Human Resources & Labour Canada, National Literacy Secretariat, memberships and donations.

Literacy B.C. welcomes your news and comments. Send to:

Literacy B.C.
#1122 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
Telephone: 687-5077 Fax: 687-5076
We reserve the right to edit all submissions.

Donations to Literacy B.C. are income tax deductible.



BULLETIN BOARD

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Our two special events, the VANCOUVER BIZ BEE for Literacy B.C. and the PETER GZOWSKI GOLF TOURNAMENT, were very successful and raised a total of \$37,000 to support the work of Literacy B.C.

To all our wonderful sponsors and to everyone who attended—THANK YOU. Their support is so important and appreciated. We're looking forward to hosting both these events again next year.

We are sorry to say that Peter Gzowski will no longer be directly involved in the golf tournaments

which are held in every province and both territories. The tournaments have raised more than \$2.2 million and have increased awareness about literacy from coast to coast.

After eight years and 57 tournaments Peter has found it more than he can handle. A National PGI Committee has been formed to carry on the work related to the 15 annual tournaments, with the assistance and support of ABC CANADA. There is an Executive Committee consisting of:

Jenny Marcus—Frontier College
Mark Smith—Yukon Literacy Council

Joanne Linzey—ABC CANADA
Darrel Milburn—New Brunswick Literacy

Chris Ryan—Newfoundland & Labrador Literacy Coalition

Linda Mitchell—Literacy B.C.

Peter's contribution to literacy in Canada has been profound. He and the tournaments he started, have raised awareness, support and dollars for our work in so many different sectors. We couldn't have done it without him! Thank you Peter! You will be missed.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

On November 4th, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced that Senator Joyce Fairbairn will join his Cabinet as Leader of Government in the Senate and Minister with special responsibility for literacy.

After a career as a journalist, Joyce Fairbairn became Legislative Assistant to Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau in 1970. Senator Fairbairn served as Mr. Trudeau's senior legislative advisor for 14 years,

and also acted as Communications Co-ordinator. She was appointed to the Senate for the Province of Alberta in 1984 and has served on many Senate Committees, including the Senate Committee on Youth and the Senate Standing Committees on Transportation and Communications, Foreign Affairs, and Agriculture and Forestry. Senator Fairbairn is a founding member of the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples.

In 1987 Senator Fairbairn initiated national debate in the Senate on literacy in Canada, and has remained an active advocate for this cause. Senator Fairbairn has served as Vice-Chair of the National Liberal Caucus.

This appointment is encouraging news for the literacy field.